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ACTION Ambassador MEXICO

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Dept understands that at present Mexicana does not plan resume air service to Cuba, would do so only on order Mexican Govt, and has stated that conditions at Habana are still hazardous and raise questions of extent insurance coverage in case accident or mishap.

Dept believes it would be desirable let appropriate officials FM know USG views, in whatever manner you consider appropriate, that continued suspension this service an important contribution DAS objective, expressed at Punta del Este and at recent informal FM, to intensify efforts to counteract Soviet-Cuban subversive activities in hemisphere. Travel of Bloc, Cuban and Latin American personnel to and from Cuba for subversive training is essential element in these activities. Much of this travel although we know that Mexican authorities have minimized importance this service, is by air. /Mexicana flights have been ~~part of~~ ^{significant} part of this air link and have been source complaints from Central American countries, particularly Honduras. Elimination this service would be considerable blow to Soviet-

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PAA has suspended flights to Havana in conformance NOTAM issued by US authorities on October 24 directing all US state owned or US registered aircraft avoid Cuban air space except with prior approval Secretary Defense. PAA does not plan propose resumption. In any case, resumption

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by PAA would be distinguishable from resumption by Mexicana. US has traditionally served as haven for oppressed from all lands, and PAA Habana operation devoted almost exclusively to bringing refugees out of Cuba. The very few Castro and bloc official personnel and cargo carried by PAA between US and Cuba are subject stringent US laws and regulations respect to our political and economic relations with Cuba.

Neither KLM nor Iberia have resumed flights.

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Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: ARA - Editor M. Martin

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